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BOOK NOTICES.

Handbook on the Law of Equity Pleading. By Benjamin J. Shipman, author of "A Handbook of Common Law Pleading." Law sheep, 632 pages. West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn., 1897.

We gladly note from the standpoint of the student the improvement in the method of treatment over some previous volumes of the Hornbook Series. The reasons for the existence of a rule, which are so necessary to its accurate application to new facts, seem to be clearly brought out, a defect which has made some of the series unsatisfactory to learners. Without much explanation on the part of the instructor, the student has too often committed to memory rather than intelligently learned the law. In the past too many cases have been cited without carefully showing distinction according to principle. Again the noticing of late statutes has tended to confuse the mind of the student. This last feature makes the books more valuable to the practising lawyer, while the other matters are not deemed so essential by him.

To every lawyer the arrangement of the chapter on Equitable Bills must prove of great convenience in drawing up his pleadings. The bill applicable to each equitable remedy is separately treated. For example, in the case of Interpleader, there is first a succinct statement of the purpose of the bill, then a direction as to what "the bill must essentially contain." This is followed by the special requirements, such as the affidavit. With this single page before him the pleader can feel confident that he has introduced all the necessary averments into his bill.

Mr. Shipman is a graduate of the Yale Law School in the class of 1876.

The Negotiable Instruments Law. By John J. Crawford of the New York Bar. Half law sheep, 144 pp. Baker, Voorhis & Co., New York, 1897.

Although lawyers have a deep-rooted objection to legislative doings in general the declaratory statute upon so complicated a subject as bills and notes has been heartily welcomed. To inform the public as to the sources of this act and to aid in its understanding the drawer of the statute has published in book-form the law as adopted in New York, Connecticut, Colorado

and Florida, with annotations. This puts the act in a convenient form for reference for business men and the practicing lawyer, and furnishes them with the decisions upon which the statute is based. The student also will find great aid in using it as a text-book upon the general subject. The principle is laid down succinctly, and in a note are the cases pro and con, with frequently an extract from a decision showing the reason of the rule. Thus at page 10, where it is declared that a provision for the payment of attorney's fees will not make a note uncertain, twelve cases are cited in support of and six against the rule, together with a quotation of eleven lines from a cited opinion. The book is most timely.

Common Law Pleading : Its History and Principles. By R. Ross Perry, Lecturer on Common Law Pleading in the Georgetown (D. C.) University Law School. Octavo, law sheep, 493 pages. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1897.

That Mr. Perry is a scholar and a teacher conversant with the needs of the student can be seen from the most cursory reading of his "Common Law Pleading." The book is written from the standpoint of the student searching after the origins of rules in order to explain their existence. Chitty's rules with respect to actions, Stephen's Rules of Pleading, and Dicey's rules as to the selection of parties to actions form the skeleton of the work. To these are added extended illustrations from decided cases, and the fruits of late researches by such investigators as Pollock and Maitland in England, and Holmes, Armes and Thayer in this country. By this method are cleared up the intricacies of a subject generally considered the most difficult in the curriculum. Mr. Perry has made the subject interesting from the start, which is no slight cause for praise.